

2020-21 SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL NEWS – STEFFEN PARKER



REGISTRATION OPEN FROM OCTOBER 5 - 30, 2020

Looking for a musical event where your talented students can prepare and perform quality literature written specifically for their voice or instrument, will receive professional written and verbal feedback, have a shot at a scholarship, a chance to be selected for a special video performance, and possibly receive recognition as one of New England's finest high school musicians? Then, your New England Solo & Ensemble Festival is the place for you and your students amidst the challenges that 2020 has brought us all.

This year's Solo & Ensemble Festival will require a bit more technology and a bit less in-person contact, but your students will still be able to prepare and perform a piece from one of our wonderful repertoire listings, and have it heard and evaluated by one of our adjudicators. To do that, once you have submitted their application in October, you will be able to upload a recording of their performance, accompanied or not, in early December. Once we have those recordings, our adjudicators will listen to them (sometimes several times) and provide the written and verbal feedback that is so important in supporting your students' musical improvement. You will be able to access those comments online in early January and share them with your students, even rehearsing the original performance recording at the same time.

Using those evaluations, the New England Music Festival will honor the most talented of those that performed in several ways.

- Those most talented will be selected for the 2021 New England Chorus, Orchestra and Band, and a certificate denoting that honor will be sent to them through their NEMFA member teacher or sponsor. We are working on a way to bring that amazing talent together virtually.
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- A group of students, selected by their adjudicators for the power and persuasion of their performance, will be asked to video the performance of their selections. A compilation of those videos will be made and shared with all through the NEMFA website and our YouTube channel.
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- For our senior participants, the highest rated vocal student and the highest rated instrumental student, each who has been selected for the New England Concert

Festival all four years will be awarded this year's Burton O. Cowgill New England Scholarship, an honor that comes not only with due recognition, but a monetary one as well.

While these accolades will bear witness to the gifts, talents and musicianship of our participants, it is the evaluation process that carries the most value to these students. The opportunity to practice, prepare and perform a great piece of music, and to receive the compliments, critiques and corrections needed to improve from our caring adjudicators, is what the New England Music Festival Association is most proud of, most invested in providing each year, every year, despite any obstacles presented. We hope you and your students will consider participating this year and every year as we work collectively to ensure that music remains a vital part of every student's high school education and experience.